THE

# DEMOCRAT.

THE

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# THE DEMOCRAT:

INTERSPERSED WITH

## ANECDOTES

OF WELL KNOWN

## CHARACTERS.

*IN TWO VOLUMES.*

*VOL. II.*

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THE

# DEMOCRAT.

## CHAP. XX.

### OUR HERO MEETS WITH A JACOBITE.

WHEN Le Noir awoke in the morning, he found his bones ache ſo much from the fatigue he had undergone in walking and riding, that he determined to continue his journey

by a more eaſy conveyance, and to proceed in a carriage.

On inquiring of his landlord, he found that a public ſtage would paſs through the town about noon, in which he ordered a place to be taken for him, and then ſtrolled out, both to ſatisfy his curioſity, and to ſee if he could meet with any perſon who might profit by his political inſtructions.

He had not walked far before he diſcovered two perſons ſitting on a bench before a public houſe in warm debate, and as one of them held a news paper in his hand, he conclud-

ed their converſation was political.—He therefore drew as near as poſſible to the diſputants in order to profit by their diſcourſe, but juſt as he came near enough to hear what was ſaid, one of the perſons got up in apparent fury, and exclaimed with a loud voice; 'I will no longer waſte my words on 'a man, who in this free and enlight-'ened age, can be abſurd enough to 'adhere to the exploded principles of 'Jacobitiſm;' flung into the houſe in a paſſion.

Skilled as Le Noir was in the Engliſh language, he was not ſufficiently ſo, to be aware of the wide difference in ſenſe, between the ſimilar ſounds of

Jacobitiſm and Jacobiniſm,* or indeed not to know that Jacobite was not the Engliſh word for Jacobin. He therefore drew near to the deſerted politician with the greateſt complacency, who, pleaſed to have any one to whom he could unboſom thoſe opinions which were deſpiſed by his precipitate antaganiſt, holding the newspaper in his hand, he addreſſed our miſſionary in the following words:

'There is a fellow for you now,

'who

* Every reader may not know, that one of the greateſt ſchiſms that ever divided the Chriſtian Church, was derived from the diſtinction of words, ſo very ſimilar in ſound and form as Homoouſion and Homoiouſion. See GIBBON'S HIST. chap. xxi.

'who unable to argue when preſſed
'by reaſons he cannot controvert,
'flies from the jubject, and ſupplies
'want of argument by paſſion and
'abuſe. Not that I think the appel-
'lation he gave me, or the opinions
'that are held by thoſe, to whom that
'appellation is generally given, any
'diſgrace. I ſhall never be aſhamed
'of thoſe principles, which I imbibed
'in my earlieſt youth, and which I
'have ever ſteadily adhered to through
'life!'

To this declaration his auditor declared his moſt ſanguine conſent, he expreſſed the higheſt veneration for his patriotic ſentiments, and aſſured him

of his diſpoſition to eſpouſe all his principles in their fulleſt extent.

This ample confeſſion of political faith procured him a cordial ſhake by the hand, (Le Noir expected an embrace) from the Jacobite; 'Sir, (ſaid 'he) I am happy to meet a man of 'your way of thinking, ſo ſeldom to 'be found in theſe degenerate times. 'As you have witneſſed the illiberal 'manner in which I was treated by 'the perſon who has juſt left me, with 'your permiſſion I will ſhortly men-'tion the ſubject of our diſpute, and 'you ſhall judge if I had not the beſt 'of the argument.' Le Noir expreſſing

ſing his readineſs to attend, the complaining Jacobite went on.

'Sir, for nearly the whole of this 'century we have been deluded by 'ſpecious pretences into continental 'wars, where defeat is not more de-'ſtructive than victory. I am alarm-'ed when I look at a newſpaper, be 'the intelligence what it may; when 'we took Landrecy, I was afraid we 'ſhould have marched to Paris, which 'would have been our total deſtruc-'tion, and now the French have taken 'Amſterdam, we are compleatly ruin-'ed; theſe German connexions are 'our bane. Nothing can ſave us, but 'treading back the erroneous ſteps we

'have taken, by recurring to firſt prin-
'ciples; by— by— zounds!— by—
'you take me, ſir?'

Theſe laſt words he accompanied by a wink of the eye, and a ſqueeze by the hand, which ſhewed more was meant than met the ear.

To this mark of confidence Le Noir, replied, 'Yes, ſir, perfectly; 'I underſtand you perfectly.' And ſo he thought he did. Yet nothing could be more oppoſite than the notion each party annexed to thoſe firſt principles, to which they were to recur. The Jacobite meant the claim of the houſe of Stuart, to hereditary tyranny; the Jacobin

Jacobin miſſionary ſome fancied era of the Engliſh hiſtory, when the democratic part of the Engliſh conſtitution was purer in its repreſentation, and more powerful in its efforts.

And here perhaps ſome faſtidious reader may accuſe me of misrepreſentation, either of truth or of probability. He may deem it perfectly impoſſible to ſuppoſe, that a perſon in the ſlighteſt degree acquainted with the Engliſh hiſtory, could expect to find any veſtige of ſuperior energy, in the popular part of our government, by tracing it towards its ſource. To this accuſation I ſhould moſt readily plead guilty, did not we find the ſame abſurd

abſurd doctrine, retailed from the mouth of every coffee-houſe orator, and the pen of every newſpaper ſcribbler and pamphleteer, who are trying at the preſent moment, to poiſon the minds of the people by fictitious repreſentations; arguing, as if a ſyſtem of equal repreſentation had been eſtabliſhed by the Saxons, improved by the Normans, perfected by the Plantagenets, protected by the Tudors, attacked by the Stuarts, reſtored, with alterations and improvements, by Oliver Cromwell, and has ever ſince been in a gradual ſtate of corruption and decay, till its final overthrow under the preſent adminiſtration.

But

But to return,—'Sir, (proceeded 'the Jacobite) it was the curſed re- 'volution that ruined us completely, 'that gave the final blow to our free- 'dom and independance:—That con- 'founded Prince of Orange, nick- 'named king William by the whigs, 'that ſyſtem of ſending to Holland 'and Germany for perſons to govern 'us.—There, ſir, we may date all our 'diſaſters, the total decay among us 'of every public and private virtue.'

Here the orator pauſed, and our miſſionary thought it a proper open- ing, to introduce his own ſentiments, as he was now he imagined converſing with a genuine diſciple of Mr. Thomas Paine,

Paine, ſince he remembered the violent ſatire of that gentleman, againſt the folly of the Engliſh, in ſending to Holland for a king. He therefore took up the converſation in this manner.

'Your obſervation, ſir, is perfectly 'right; the idea, after depoſing one 'king, of ſending abroad for another, 'was very abſurd to be ſure. (Here 'the Jacobite ſmiled applauſe.) And 'yet, after all, if you muſt have a 'plague, what ſignifies whence it 'comes, whether you ſuffer by diſeaſe 'engendered from bad habits at home, 'or import infection from abroad.— 'Why did you not follow the example

'that

'that was before your eyes, and copy 'from yourſelves; why did you fear 'to do that to James the ſecond in '1688, which was done to Charles 'the firſt, at Whitehall in 1640, and 'what we did to his deſcendant at 'Paris, in 1793.*

'Hell and furies, (cried the irrita-'ted Jacobine) am I talking to a man, 'or a devil?—Do you blaſpheme, 'you impious wretch?—Do you blaſ-'pheme

* It does not ſeem generally known, that the unfortunate Louis XVI. was a lineal deſcendant of Charles I. and a nearer claimant to the throne of Great Britain, than the preſent royal family, if the Act of Settlement had not exiſted.

'pheme the ſacred name of our holy 'martyr?—Villain!'

Saying this, he ruſhed upon our aſtoniſhed hero, with the fury of a tiger; luckily the aſſault was ſtopped by the perſon, who had juſt quitted this furious ſtickler for hereditary right. He coming out of the houſe at the inſtant, interpoſed between the parties, and after forcing the Jacobite away, inquired of the Jacobin, what could have occaſioned ſo violent a quarrel, on ſo ſhort an acquaintance; which produced the diſcourſe to be found in the next chapter.

CHAP.

## CHAP. XXI.

### CONVERSATION WITH A WHIG.

THE perſon now engaged in converſation with Le Noir, was a ſtanch whig. On finding the quarrel had ariſen, from the violent party prejudices of his former companion, he conceived a partiality for our miſſionary,

ſionary, as a kind of ſufferer in the cauſe of freedom, and was deſirous of entering into further converſation;—a motion that was not declined by him; and to work they both went, vying with each other in the warmeſt panegyricks on public liberty, and lamenting the preſent decay of it over the whole world, (France excepted) and eſpecially in this iſland.

As the Engliſh politician was a great admirer of the works of Thomas Paine, whoſe arguments he maintained were unanſwerable, and as he declaimed moſt violently againſt the cruelty and injuſtice of national religious eſtabliſhments, for he was a preſbyterian, he

he ſoon entirely won the confidence of Le Noir, who opened all his ſentiments to him without reſerve.

The reader's imagination will eaſily ſuggeſt to him, the tenor of his obſervations, as they were ſuch as are retailed in every corner, by the wiſe patriots of this enlightened age; ſuffice it to ſay, that he concluded by ſhewing how much the French reformers went beyond their Engliſh neighbours in their noble contempt of long eſtabliſhed and vulgar prejudices, by totally aboliſhing royalty, and laying aſide all religious worſhip, inſtead of trying to modify inſtitutions

radically inimical to the natural rights, and natural reaſon of mankind.

Here again his zeal carried him too far,—he touched on an unlucky ſtring, as religion and king William were two favourite topics with his auditor, who, tho' a whig, was not one of thoſe now aſſuming that name, but one of the old ſchool. His enmity to religious eſtabliſhments was, in fact, only directed againſt the preſent religious eſtabliſhment of England, but were his own favourite ſect to gain the aſcendence, he would have felt no more objection to the extirpation of every other by fire and faggot, than the inquiſition itſelf: and as to arbitrary

power, he had no idea it could be dangerous in any other hands than thoſe of the elder branch of the houſe of Stuart. He conceived it impoſſible that either William, or the two firſt Georges, could ever be in the wrong, and his diſſatisfaction under the preſent reign aroſe from his indignation, that his Majeſty, chooſing to be king of a people, and not of a party, did not make that diſtinction between his ſubjects, that had been made by his immediate predeſſors, by which many perſons, from being ſuppoſed diſaffected to government, were made really ſo by contempt and depreſſion. This in his eyes was ſo great a fault, that he had more than once hinted his ſuſpi-

cions, that our gracious monarch was himſelf a Jacobite.

To theſe abſurd prejudices, he added the genuine national prejudice of John Bull; conſequently he was highly indignant to hear a Frenchman, as he now diſcovered Le Noir to be, praiſe his own countrymen at the expence of the Engliſh; an abſurdity by the way, that nothing but the arrogance of a Frenchman could be capable of falling into.

'Sir, (cried the enranged whig,) do 'you pretend to inſult us?—Do you, 'the ſpawn of thoſe, whom our illuſ-

trious

'trious deliverer drove before him,
'from one end of Europe to the other,*
'preſume to ſtain his glorious, his
'immortal memory.—Do you, a par-
'cel of atheiſtical deiſts, traduce reli-
'gion, do you ſpeak in contempt of
'the Engliſh?—Who,—who—.'

Here he was too angry to expreſs what he ment, or perhaps to mean any thing at all, and Le Noir tried to avail himſelf of the opportunity, to ſay ſomething in his defence; but



* Perhaps the reader may be ſome time in finding this ſeries of victory in the reign of king William, but it is poſſible the Whig in his haſte might have confounded Landen and Steinkirk, with Blenheim and Ramilies.

while he was hesitating what that should be, for he was perfectly astonished at the unexpected turn the conversation had taken; his former Jacobitical disputant came out of the house, with two or three companions, none of whom were a cup too low. Just at this moment the whig, recovering his voice, called Le Noir a blasphemer of God and the king, on which the whole company began, from words to proceed to actions, and mud as well as abuse flew about his ears in great abundance, the only competition between the whig and the jacobite, seeming now to be, which could cover him with the most copious effusion of both.

Our

Our poor miſſionary, thought himſelf like ſome miſſionaries of another kind, to be in a fair way of ſuffering martyrdom, when luckily for him, as he thought (and ſo indeed it proved, though not exactly in the way that he hoped,) a woman came by, carrying a pudding to the bake-houſe in a large earthen diſh. Having heard much of the humanity and tenderneſs of the Engliſh fair, he applied to this gentle nymph for protection; who on hearing from one of the bye-ſtanders, that he was the Frenchman, who had cut off the king of France's head, and intended to ſerve all other kings in the ſame manner; the lovely royaliſt, regardleſs of her future dinner, diſcharged all

the contents of the diſh in his face, which, as the pudding had not undergone the operation of baking, was only disfigured for the preſent. This however turned out ultimately in his favour; the ridiculous figure he cut, turned the anger of his perſecutors into mirth, which was not a little heightened, by his being better dreſſed than themſelves, and as an Engliſh mob ſeldom uſe a man ill in cold blood for any cauſe, but never for a joke, he was ſuffered to make the beſt of his way to the inn, ſtill followed indeed by the ſhouts, but no longer by the peltings of the laughing populace.

CHAP.

## CHAP. XXII.

### CONVERSATION IN A STAGE COACH.

LE Noir had no inclination to proſecute his inquiries concerning the political opinions of the citizens of Alton; therefore after cleaning his face and clothes, from the ſavoury viands with which he had been plaiſtered,

tered, he ſat quietly down to wait the arrival of the Goſport coach.

About twelve o'clock the coach came, in which, though rather full, he had the good luck to get a ſeat, and on entering found himſelf ſurrounded by theſe fellow travellers: An old maid who was a great politician, a London rider, a young country attorney, a ſea officer, and a plain man dreſſed like a quaker.

They jumbled on a ſhort time in ſilence, as a new traveller had interrupted the diſcourſe they were engaged in, before his admiſſion, and he was determined not to take the lead

in

in any converſation, or hazard any opinion till he was fully ſatisfied concerning the ſentiments of his companions.

The firſt who broke ſilence was the lady, and her debut ſeemed rather abrupt: 'I do not ſee, (ſhe ſaid) 'why women might not command at 'ſea, the duty of a captain or admi-'ral does not require much perſonal 'exertions.—At the ſea fight of Sala-'mis.'—

Now the reader may poſſibly wonder, what could induce this lady to introduce ſo oddly, a claim of her own ſex to command ſhips of war, and to enforce

enforce the claim by the battle of Salamis. But it often happens, even while a converſation is going on, that a perſon ſtruck by any particular part of it, inſtead of attending to what afterwards paſſed, forms a chain of ideas from that which particularly ſtruck him; however regular the ſucceſſion of thoſe ideas may be in his own mind, the converſation having followed a different tract, if the abſent perſon ſtarting from his reverie, ſhould hazard an aſſertion, the regular reſult of his own ſilent proceſs, he will ſeem to utter ſomething that has been ſuggeſted by the deluſion of a dream. Now this was exactly the caſe with the Lady. Some miles before

fore the coach reached Alton, the company began talking on maritime ſubjects, which ſet her to meditation, and as ſhe was a great reader of ancient hiſtory, and was perfectly convinced, women were equal to every ſervice, in which men were uſually employed, except where ſtrength of muſcle was concerned, ſhe run over all her reading to find an example, to juſtify the paradox ſhe meant to hazard, that women were qualified to command ſhips of war, and juſt at this moment ſhe recollected the account of the battle of Salamis, which ſhe had met with in Littlebury's Herodotus.

'At the ſea fight of Salamis, (con-

'tinued

'tinued the claſſic amazon,) the only 'captain of the Perſian fleet, that be-'haved with proper ſpirit was a wo-'man; Artemeſia, near the concluſion 'of the battle, being cloſely purſued 'by one of the enemy's ſhips, brought 'her prow to bear on his ſide, and 'ſunk him at once.'

'A pretty manœuvre indeed (cried 'the ſea officer,) if I had command-'ed, I would have ſhewn the Pruſſian 'ſhe-captain the odds of it;—run 'her head againſt my broadſide in-'deed! I would have raked the b—— 'fore and aft, till ſhe had bep—d her-'ſelf.—But how ſhould women know 'any thing of ſea-matters, I would 'have

'have every one ſtick to what they 'underſtand, and not meddle with what 'does not belong to them.'

Juſt as he ſaid this, a load of wheat paſſed by, and one of the company took occaſion to obſerve, that corn was very dear.

'Yes, (anſwered the captain,) and 'dear it will be, while the preſent 'management of land goes on; there 'are not ten farmers in England who 'have common ſenſe, or common 'honeſty: I have got a few acres 'near Fareham, which I cultivate my-'ſelf: I am perpetually trying expe-'riments,—to be ſure as yet I have

'been

'been rather unlucky. The wheat 'that I ſowed in April did not ſuc- 'ceed, owing to the dryneſs of the 'weather, but what of that, I am ſure 'it will anſwer at laſt, and perhaps I 'ſhall get two crops off one field in 'the ſame year.'

'Moſt likely not; (ſaid the attor- 'ney,) nature is to be treated na- 'turally and not forced by art. It is 'to our manufactures and not our 'agriculture, that we ſhould direct 'our improvements. There indeed, 'by ſkill and induſtry we might 'double our produce.—All hands to 'the loom I ſay. Look at our cot- 'tages, and ſee how they are filled

'with

'with half ſtarved children, who earn
'a miſerable exiſtence by following
'the plow, or keeping ſheep on a
'dreary common. Let houſes of in-
'duſtry be built in every diſtrict, and
'all poor children ſent there to be
'decently educated; the fruit of their
'labour, even in their earlieſt years,
'might then turn to ſome account.
'Then our manufactures would flou-
'riſh, and Britain beat the world in
'commerce, and agriculture would
'ſoon follow. Then you would ſee
'no longer, the immenſe dreary
'waſtes, that ſurround the metropo-
'lis, every hand would be employed,
'and every acre cultivated.'

Here the rider took up the complaint. 'Our misfortunes, (he ſaid) 'do not ariſe either from defective 'huſbandry, or neglected manufac- 'tures. — Our laws are the cauſe of 'our miſery and depopulation; the 'corruption of our legiſlature, the ini- 'quity of our courts of juſtice, the 'venality of the practitioners from the 'attorney general, to the village petty 'fogger, the influence of prerogative, 'judges and packed juries; theſe are 'the misfortunes under which we 'groan, and which nothing can alle- 'viate, but a total and radical reform 'in every order of ſociety, clergy and 'laiety, civil and military.'

Here

Here Le Noir thought it impoſſible he could be miſtaken. All had ſhewn their diſcontent; all had pointed out grievances that called for removal, and the laſt gentleman in particular, had delivered his ſentiments openly and explicitly. He therefore now again ventured to diſplay his own opinions, and after running over his uſual arguments, coincided with each perſon in depreciating the reſpective enormities he had enumerated, and lamenting the lamentable ſtate to which he found this once free and flouriſhing country was reduced, he concluded by recommending 'French principles, and French meaſures, eſpecially the

extinction of privileged orders, and a free uſe of the guillotine.'

But his eloquence, as uſual, had an effect exactly the reverſe of what he expected; every one of the company in expreſſing his diſcontent at exiſting evils, and propoſing an effectual remedy, was entirely actuated by the deſire of diſplaying his own abilities, without any conſideration of the conſequences to which the adoption of all their plans might lead. They were ſhocked therefore at the effects Le Noir had deduced from them. But while they were looking on each other in ſilent expectation of ſome one taking

ing up the converſation, either to corroborate or confute the propoſitions of the ſtranger, the perſon in the plain dreſs, who had hitherto been ſilent, began to open as follows.

'My friends, I have been very attentive to the various grievances you have complained of, and the ſagacious modes you have ſuggeſted for their redreſs, all which have tended to confirm me in the opinion I have long entertained, that a perſon, poſſeſſing common ſenſe, will never talk abſurdly on any ſubject he is well verſed in and clearly underſtands, and that the brighteſt wit, and the quickeſt diſcernment will

'only ſerve to bewilder thoſe who 'pretend to argue on ſubjects which 'they do not underſtand.'

'It is from this cauſe, that I have 'been more amuſed than informed 'by the ingenious remarks I have 'liſtened to; I have no doubt but our 'female friend would have afforded 'us rational entertainment on any ſub-'ject, more ſuited to the habits of 'her ſex than ſea engagements and 'the battle of Salamis. But the na-'val commander, if he had been in 'the ſhip attacked by the heroine, 'might not have found the ſhock of 'her prow againſt his broadſide ſo 'very abſurd a manœuvre, as it would 'have

'have been rather difficult to take
'her fore and aft without powder and
'ball. And as to his improvements
'in agriculture, he may perhaps on
'reflection be convinced that a man,
'whose whole life has been employ-
'in the fields, and whose subsist-
'ence depends on raising the great-
'est possible produce from them, may
'be rather more likely to know the
'best means of accomplishing this
'than a gentleman who occasionally
'cultivates a cabbage garden for his
'amusement, but whose education
'and talents have been employed on
'another element.'

'If my oppoſite friend, who from
'what has occaſionally dropped from
'him, I take to be a limb of the law,
'had ſtuck to obſervations in that
'profeſſion, he might perhaps have
'inſtructed us. But I think his zeal
'for our manufactures rather carried
'him out of his depth when he ob-
'jected to giving the children of cot-
'tages the habit of following the
'plough and keeping ſheep, ſince
'ploughmen and ſhepherds are abſo-
'lutely neceſſary for the ſupport of
'ſociety, and flax muſt be ſown, and
'ſheep muſt be fed, before cloth
'can be woven, or linen ſpun. If he
'had thoroughly weighed his ſubject
'he would hardly have thought, that
'giving

'giving every individual the tender 'education of a manufacturer was 'the beſt method to be taken, for 'leaving no acre in the iſland uncul- 'tivated.'

'The gentleman who has abuſed 'our government, and the adminiſ- 'tration of our laws, has, I dare ſay, 'ſome topic on which he might 'have ſhone; but his obſervations 'on prerogative judges, and pack- 'ed juries at the preſent criſis, 'ſhew an inexcuſable ignorance, to 'give it no harſher term, of what 'has juſt paſſed under our eyes. I 'would aſk any man of common ob- 'ſervation and candour, if he believes 'there

'there is an inſtance in the annals of
'mankind, (our own excepted) of
'perſons tried under ſuch circum-
'ſtances as thoſe tried on ſuſpicion
'of treaſon have lately been, eſcaping
'condemnation, whether they were
'really innocent or guilty, and to this
'muſt be added the circumſtance,
'that one of the perſons, chiefly in-
'ſtrumental in their acquittal, has im-
'mediately after received from the
'hands of power, a mark of diſtinc-
'tion, though juſtly due to his charac-
'ter and abilities*.'

'Our friend who ſpoke laſt I con-
'ceive,

* Perhaps alluding to Mr. Gibb's ſilk gown.

'ceive, from his manner, to be of that
'country whoſe politics he recom-
'mends; I allow the French to be
'an ingenious people, they have dan-
'ed well, they have dreſſed well, they
'have fought well, they have ſhone
'both in the ornamental and uſeful
'arts, they have invented both ruffles
'and telegraphs. But I think being
'arbiters in legiſlation, and ſetting the
'faſhions of freedom is a little out of
'their line. The doſe of liberty they
'have taken, ſeems a little too ſtrong
'for their volatile heads, and their
'behaviour under its influence, re-
'minds me of a parcel of ſavages,
'that I once ſaw in Pennſylvania in-
'toxicated with brandy. But on
'every

'every conſideration, I would recom-
'mend it to that gentleman, not to
'be quite ſo unguarded in giving his
'advice. If he is an emigrant, he
'is acting a moſt ungrateful part in a
'country that affords him an aſylum
'from his perſecutors. If he is a
'democrat, he certainly can have no
'good deſign in viſiting this iſland,
'and the ſooner he leaves it, if not
'the better for us, as I truſt we are
'in no danger from his doctrines, yet
'certainly the ſafer for himſelf.'

After a ſhort ſilence, the conver-ſation took another turn, and the late war in America being ſtarted, the plain man ſaid, 'Though I have not

'made

"made military matters at all my
"ſtudy, indeed both my profeſſion and
"my religious opinions have been con-
"trary to ſuch an employment; yet I
"think I can pretty accurately ſtate,
"the cauſes of the defeats we experi-
"enced during that unfortunate war.—

And here poſſibly the American Quaker, for ſuch he was, would have illuſtrated by his own example, the leſſon he had been inculcating. But his eſſay on tactics was interrupted by the ſtopping of the coach at the Glouceſter Coffee-houſe in Piccadilly.

CHAP.

## CHAP. XXIII.

### ARRIVAL IN LONDON.—DISCOURSE ON A FRENCH INVASION.

IT was about the hour of ſeven in the evening when they alighted at the Coffee-houſe, which was then chiefly filled by perſons waiting to ſet off in the different mail coaches which go from that general rendez-

vous

vous to all the weſtern parts of Great Britain. Le Noir was ſo ſtruck with the buz of the numerous parties around him, that as he had no immediate object in view, he thought he might as well ſtay there, and catch the ſpirit of the converſation around him.

He ſat liſtening with a newſpaper in his hand, and a cup of coffee before him; as the time paſſed on, the company changed, And after eight o'clock, the coaches being all departed, for the places of their reſpective deſtination, this coffee-houſe, like all others, was now occupied only by loungers and politicians.

After

After many deep obſervations, and diſquiſitions on the expediency of the war with France, and the mode of conducting it, the probability of an invaſion was brought on the carpet; and on this point there was no poſſible abſurdity that could enter the head of a man that was not advanced. One perſon aſſerted that five thouſand men, landed in the north of Scotland, would make and entire conqueſt of the iſland; for the army would all revolt, and the militia and ſencibles run away. Another maintained with equal confidence, that if two hundred thouſand were landed juſt by the tower,—they would be defeated by the coal-heavers. This advanced that the

French would land in Cornwall, and fortifying themſelves in the weſtern peninſula, ſtarve the metropolis by deſtroying the pilchard fiſhery; while another, a native of Ireland, contended that if they got poſſeſſion of the iſle of Wight, we muſt be inevitably ruined, as from its inſular ſituation we could never attack them in ſufficient force to diſlodge them, and they would have an eaſy communication by land, with every part of the kingdom. A violent gentleman, who had formerly been captain of a Margate hoy, was for cutting their throats, as they landed, without giving them time to look about them; while another, of a more phlegmatic temper, and who was deeply read in

the hiſtory of England, put him in mind of the fatal conſequences of the battle of Haſtings, and delivered his opinion againſt fighting at all; he was for waſting the cultivated country, and driving all the live ſtock into the mountains of Wales, and the highlands of Scotland. By this ſtep the invading army muſt be ſtarved, for though they might do ſome trifling damage, ſuch as plundering and burning the metropolis; yet they could not ſubſiſt long, on the produce of London and its ſuburbs, as undoubtedly, a certain patriotic baronet would not ſcruple to ſacrifice his hogs for the good of his country.

Le Noir

Le Noir did not derive much knowledge from this conſtellation of heaven born generals; he could not however refrain from expreſſing his idea of the probability of the attempt, to which he added ſome hints of the certainty of its ſucceſs. And here he had the pleaſure to find himſelf liſtened to with avidity, as nothing rivets the attention of a true Engliſhman like a detail of his misfortunes, and a prognoſtic of his impending ruin.

There was a ſhort fat man, in a bob wig, brown coat and red waiſtcoat, who paid a particular regard to his diſcourſe, almoſt devouring every ſyllable he uttered. This was highly gratifying to

our adventurer, who began to congratulate himſelf on the difference he found, between the provincial clowns, and the inmates of the metropolis.—As the company gradually diſperſed, the attentive liſtener drew nearer to Le Noir, and addreſſed him thus.

'Sir, as you ſeem, by your converſation, to be accurately acquainted with the ſubject we have been ſpeaking of, I have a particular favour to requeſt of you.'

To this Le Noir replied, with the greateſt politeneſs, that he ſhould readily comply with any requeſt, to the utmoſt of his ability.

'Why

'Why then, ſir, (he continued) 'what I want to know is this: you 'gentlemen who argue ſo fluently on 'every ſubject, often do it for the 'purpoſe only of ſhewing your own 'ingenuity, and ſometimes take pleaſure 'in ſupporting an opinion contrary to 'your real ſentiments. Now I ſhall 'eſteem myſelf greatly obliged to you, 'if you would inform me whether 'you really think there is a probabi-'lity of the French making a deſ-'cent in this country. I ſhould not 'be ſo earneſt in my inquiry, was I 'not perſonally intereſted in the event; 'indeed my early information of it, 'may be of the moſt ſerious conſe-'quences to me.'

Our miſſionary now felt his heart expand with joy. He did not doubt but he was talking with a man, who had planned an inſurrection to join the invaders, or to ſecond their deſigns, by fire and aſſaſſination in the metropolis. He concluded he lived in a houſe, whoſe garrets were hung round with pikes, and whoſe cellars were crammed full of gun powder. He therefore ſpared no pains to convince the anxious queriſt, of the great probability that the French would attempt, and actually effect a landing in England, and concluded by requeſting, in his turn, if there were no very particular reaſons to the contrary, that he would

would inform him, from what cauſe his great anxiety on this head aroſe.

'Very readily, (replied the queriſt) 'you muſt know, ſir, I have a large 'ſum of money lying in my banker's 'hands, which I mean to place in 'the funds, and am only waiting to 'buy in to my advantage. I was in 'hopes, after all I have heard of our 'national diſtreſs, that they would have 'been as low as in the American 'war. That was a glorious time, I 'nearly doubled my property then by 'ſtock jobbing; but this confounded '*Pitt*, by his perſevering in his curſed 'ſcheme, of buying up ſtock for the

'public every week, keeps them ſo 'unreaſonably high, that there is no 'doing any thing. But if the French 'were once to land, they would get 'a glorious tumble, and perhaps I 'might make ten per cent. of my 'money.

This conſummate piece of ſtupid avarice, and his own conſequent diſappointment, were too much for the patience of Le Noir; and turning from his companion with marked diſguſt, he inquired of the waiter, where he might procure a temporary reſidence, till he could fix himſelf in lodgings; and being recommended to the Hum-

mums, he ſet out according to the directions that were given him, to find out that reſpectable houſe of entertainment.

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CHAP.

## CHAP. XXIV.

### ADVENTURE WITH SOME SOLDIERS.

IN his way to Covent Garden, as he was paſſing the door of a public houſe, he heard ſome perſons very loud in converſation; this excited his curioſity, and he immediately went in. He found the room full of military men,

men, as uſual, 'high in oath,' and very warm in expreſſing their diſcontent at ſcanty pay and hard duty, tho' moſt of them, being newly enliſted, had received more bounty money than they could ſpend, and had never done any duty at all.

This ſtruck his fancy at once, he remembered how much the general diſcontent of the French army had contributed to the facility of the revolution, and as he had been led to believe the ſame diſcontent prevailed in the Engliſh army, of which he ſeemed now to have occular proof, he concluded, that by encouraging this

ſpirit,

ſpirit he ſhould ſtrike at the heart of the Engliſh government.

He immediately ſat down among them, and called for ſome liquor began to join in the converſation. He ſoon declared himſelf of the ſame ſentiments with his new comrades, and condoled with them on their hardſhips; but he found, that as his zeal in their cauſe increaſed, their own complaints diminiſhed. But one ſoldier, of better appearance than the reſt, was more attentive to him, and by artfully putting plauſible queſtions, induced him to diſcloſe his own opinions, ſtill more explicitly; till, as he was warmly expatiating on the great

great advantages the ſoldiers of a republic had, over that of a monarchy, and ſhewing that it was the intereſt of the army to join the French if they ſhould land, the ſergeant, (for ſuch this ſmooth gentleman was,) jumped ſuddenly up, and ſeizing him by the collar, declared he would ſecure him, as a perſon diſaffected to his majeſty's perſon and government.

Le Noir was ſtruck with aſtoniſhment at the ſudden accuſation, he began to think the inhabitants of London were not ſo much wiſer than thoſe in the country, as he had imagined, and he thought himſelf involved in a very ſerious difficulty.—

As

As he was not unuſed to theſe adventures, his preſence of mind did not forſake him; he immediately affected as much loyalty as he had before ſhewn diſaffection, ſaid he had diſguiſed his principles to ſound the fidelity of his majeſty's forces, and inſiſted on treating them all with liquor to drink the king's health.

A propoſition of this kind is ſeldom rejected by a ſoldier, and his peace was made, though his declared purpoſe of acting as a ſpy, was not greatly reliſhed. A large bowl of punch was immediately introduced, and almoſt as immediately emptied; another, and another ſucceeded, as the ſergeant alſo in-

inſiſted on contributing a bowl in his turn; and our miſſionary was compelled to ſhew his loyalty by ſuch large and frequent potations to his majeſty's health, that his own began to be much deranged, till at laſt he fell ſenſeleſs from his chair, and was carried to a bed in the houſe, in a compleat ſtate of intoxication.

He awaked in the morning with a diſordered ſtomach, and an aching head, for the liquor he had drank was as deficient in quality, as it was abundant in quantity.

He could not at firſt conceive where he was, or recollect how he came into the

the place in which he found himſelf; but his ſurpriſe was greatly increaſed when jumping out of bed for the purpoſe of dreſſing himſelf, he miſſed his clothes, and perceived in their place a ſoldier's jacket and waiſtcoat. After knocking and calling to no purpoſe, he was forced to dreſs himſelf in theſe new habiliments, and ſo accoutred, he came down into the room where he had paſſed the preceding evening.

Here he found the ſergeant and ſome of the other ſoldiers, to whom he expreſſed his wonder at the ſituation in which he was, and inſiſted on the reſtoration of his clothes, with ſome

ſome degree of warmth; but to this demand the ſergeant very coolly replied that his clothes were perfectly ſafe, and ſhould be either returned to him, or ſold, and the money they produced applied to his uſe; but adviſed him at preſent, to get his breakfaſt as ſoon as poſſible, for it grew late, and it was time to go before a magiſtrate to be atteſted.

He ſtared with aſtoniſhment at this, and deſired an explanation, which was immediately given. The ſergeant declared, that he had received a guinea as earneſt, to ſerve his majeſty as a ſoldier; this the whole party declared their readineſs to confirm on oath, and

the ſergeant further added, that he ſhould receive the whole of his bounty money, at the time of atteſtation.

Conſcious of the ſtate of ebriety he had been in, he was perfectly unable to contradict the general evidence againſt him, and after many fruitleſs attempts to diſengage himſelf from his diſagreeable ſituation, he was obliged to accompany his new comrades to a magiſtrate, ſorely afraid, that the object of his miſſion would be now reverſed, and he ſhould, like Poſthumes,

——— 'fight
'Againſt the part he came for.'——

He

He partly conſoled himſelf however by the recollection, that he was not quite unacquainted with the manœuvre of deſertion,

It was lucky for him, that a new regulation had taken place in the police of Weſtminſter, and that inſtead of being taken before a trading juſtice, who would do any act he could do, without immediate perſonal riſk, for a ſhilling, and by whom he would moſt probably have been atteſted, without aſking a ſingle queſtion, he was brought to one of the newly eſtabliſhed police offices; where the gentleman who then preſided, was high in legal rank, and equally reſpected for his ability and

experience as a magiſtrate, and his integrity as a man, and who had particularly exerted himſelf in detecting ſome abuſes that had crept into the recuiting ſervice.

Before him the whole affair was thoroughly inveſtigated, and the reſult was, that Le Noir was discharged, and the ſergeant, after being obliged to return the clothes, bound over to anſwer the aſſault at the next ſeſſions.

And here we muſt pauſe, to conſider the powerful force of prejudice.—We ſhould naturally ſuppoſe that a ſtranger, ſo protected by the laws of a coun-

a country, againſt an outrage committed by perſons employed in the government, and that outrage puniſhed, would go away with ſentiments of gratitude; but the direct reverſe was the caſe. The inconvenience was remembered, and the benefit forgotten; and he was only confirmed in his opinion, of the abuſes exiſting in the Engliſh laws and conſtitution, becauſe they had not prevented a diſaſter, which was ſolely occaſioned by his own folly and intemperance.

## CHAP. XXV.

### OBSERVATIONS ON THE POLICE OF LONDON.

AS ſoon as Le Noir was equipped in his own clothes, he took his way to the firſt place of his diſtination, the Hummums. But in paſſing by a coffee houſe, he could not reſiſt the temptation of refreſhing himſelf by

by the diluting beverage of the place after his evening's debauch, his unrefreſhing repoſe and his morning's alarm.

He went in, ſat down and called for ſome tea, while he was drinking it, another perſon came in, and ſitting near him, began grumbling to himſelf at ſomething. The cuſtom of this country, not admitting immediate communication between ſtrangers, he could not directly diſcloſe the cauſe of his diſcontent to his neighbour, but was compelled to vent his diſpleaſure, by general ejaculations, ſuch as,—what the devil are our magiſtrates about? One has one's pocket picked, if one

but ſtop to look at a print ſhop, and there is no walking a yard, without being peſtered by a thouſand beggars. But I ſuppoſe the juſtices are feed, both by beggars and pickpockets.

This broken ſoliloquy brought the whole coffee houſe round him, and every perſon had ſomething to ſay, on the inefficacy of the laws, the indolence, or corruption of the magiſtrates, the impunity of pickpockets, the increaſe of vagrants, and the frequency of robberies.

To this Le Noir liſtened with great ſatisfaction, as being highly flattering to his own feelings at the moment, and

and he immediately gave an account of his recent adventure with all the falſe coulouring, his own partial imagination could give it.

All hearkened with attention to his ſtory, and all coincided with his ſentiments; and it was agreed on all hands that the regulation of the police of London was a diſgrace to the nation. Every ſort of diſorder and nuiſance was connived at; the prevention of crimes by the ſalutary vigilance of magiſtrates was neglected; and the officious inſolence of conſtables and watchmen were ſo great, that a gentleman could not be engaged in a harmleſs frolick, without being liable

to

to inſult and reſtraint, totally inconſiſtant with the freedom of a Britiſh ſubject.

'Then I find the complaint is (ſaid 'a perſon, who now came forward 'from a remote corner of the room,) 'that the police is both too ſtrict, 'and too much relaxed; and you 'want to enjoy, what cannot be en-'joyed at the ſame time, the higheſt 'degree both of order and of licenti-'ouſneſs; or in other words, every 'man wiſhes to impoſe the ſevereſt 'reſtrictions on others, and to be free 'from all reſtraint himſelf. As for 'clearing the ſtreets of London, of all 'vagrants and pickpockets by day,

'and

'and of all ſtreet-robbers and ſtreet-
'walkers by night; and to enable
'every man to ſleep in ſecurity, with
'his doors open, and to carry his
'money in his hand, without fear of
'loſing it; it is a thing that may very
'eaſily, be moſt effectually done.—
'But the doubt is, if the people would
'buy this advantage at the price at
'which it only can be bought. No
'one ever heard of a robbery com-
'mitted in a camp, or of bolts and
'bars to a marqué; neither can the
'moſt warm advocate, for the honour
'of a ſoldier, impute this ſolely to that
'cauſe. Introduce then the diſcipline
'of a camp into this town; poſt cen-
'tinels with ſtrict orders, in every
'corner,

'corner, enforce their vigilance by
'frequent rounds, let them demand
'paroles and counterſigns from all who
'approach, and apprehend and con-
'fine all they ſuſpect, and take my
'word for it, you will hear no more
'of robbery; it will be alſo neceſſary,
'that this may have full effect, to re-
'verſe one maxim in our juriſpru-
'dence, and inſtead of ſuppoſing every
'one innocent before he is proved
'guilty, deem every accuſed perſon
'guilty till his innocence is ſhewn.
'Yet how this can be done, without
'increaſing the power and inſolence
'of Peace officers, and authorizing
'them to interfere, even in the more
'trifling matters, than the harmleſs
'frolicks

'frolicks of gentlemen, by which I 'preſume is meant, breaking lamps, 'and knocking down watchmen, I do 'not, I own, exactly ſee. Neither 'do I imagine it would be very agree-'able to grave ſenators and wealthy 'citizens, to have their motions watch-'ed in the ſtreet, and if they ſome-'times ſtood ſtill, and ſometimes turn-'ed about, without any apparent cauſe, 'to be apprehended on ſuſpicion of an 'intent to commit felony; when the 'object of their purſuit, perhaps was a 'ſmart ſervant girl with a neat leg and 'a white ſtocking, or a pretty milli-'ner's 'prentice with a band box under 'her arm.'

Here

Here he ſtopped, threw down his ſixpence at the bar and departed, when every body began to abuſe him; ſome thought him a ſpy, ſome a methodiſt preacher, and ſome a police magiſtrate; all agreed he was either knave or fool, but he had in general the honour of being thought to unite both thoſe characters.

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CHAP.

## CHAP. XXVI.

### A PROJECTOR AND A PROPHET.

LE NOIR ſallied fourth from the coffee houſe with more than uſual ſpirits, from the conviction of having now found a ſet of men, who were really and ſeriouſly diſſatisfied.

Having

Having much of the day before him, he determined before he went to his intended lodgings, to deliver one of the letters he had brought from France. In conſequence of this reſolution, he proceeded to inquire for Mr. Wilſon, in Arundel-ſtreet. He ſoon found him, and was ſhewn into a handſome drawing room, on the firſt floor not inelegantly furniſhed, but covered with a variety of books and papers, ſcattered promiſcuouſly over every part of the room. On being announced and ſhewing his credentials, he was received with every mark of attention and politeneſs,

This gentleman was what might be called

called, a political projector. Poſſeſſing quick and brilliant parts, with a warm and ſanguine imagination, he often formed in his mind the moſt perfect forms of ideal polity, but without conſidering the abſolute impoſſibility of putting them in practice; and as his mind, when the fervour of enthuſiaſm cooled, was as active in correcting the errors of his plans, as it had before been eager in magnifying their advantages, he was ſeldom many days together, without making a radical change in his favourite ſyſtems.

At the time when he formed an acquaintance at Paris with the per-

ſons who recommended Le Noir to his notice, the ſyſtem of univerſal equality and freedom, which was the favourite object of the circles which he frequented, filled his imagination with the ſublimity of the idea, and he returned to England, with a full determination, to exert his abilities to the utmoſt extent, (and he was by no means inclined to undervalue their conſequence, when ſo exerted,) to bring this country to unite with France, in the project of binding the whole world, in one fraternal bond of unity, and baniſhing war and prieſtcraft from the face of the earth.

But this favourite ſcheme was ſoon ſucceeded,

ſucceeded, by a variety of others equally intereſting and equally practicable, which by turns occupied his whole attention, and were in their turn neglected for new ones. The ſpeculation in which he was deeply engaged, at the inſtant Le Noir introduced himſelf, was an arrangement of the forces of the different powers of Europe, according to their reſpective natural and political advantages, in ſuch a way, as muſt ſhake the preſent republic of France to its foundations, and when our hero entered, he was actually trying to find out ſome method to ſecure the Ruſſian army, from the inconvenience they muſt ſuffer from

the heat during a winter campaign in France.

There could not be a more unfortunate time for his introduction; for when he opened the nature of his miſſion, he found Mr. Wilton ſtrongly prepoſſeſſed againſt every part of it. When he inquired how the minds of the people were inclined, towards a reception of the French, he was anſwered by a diſplay of the arrangement he was preparing, for making every man, woman and child in the iſland, uſeful againſt the enemy, in the capacity either of ſoldier, ſailor, drummer or powder-monkey; turning every houſe into

into a fort, and every wood into an *abatis.*

When he aſked the opinion of Mr. Wilton, as to the poſſibility of landing a very formible army, under the protection of the Dutch fleet; he found that fleet was already in our poſſeſſion, together with Holland and Flanders, reconquered by the combined forces of Auſtria and Pruſſia. Liſle was cloſely beſieged by an army of Ruſſians and Poles, under the command of Koſciuſco, who was recovered from his wounds, and high in favour of the Empreſs: that Lord Moira, after taking Breſt, and burning the French fleet, was in full march to Paris, at

the head of 100,000 royaliſts, and that Toulon and Marſeilles, were in poſſeſſion of the Turks, whom the imperious Catherine had put into requiſition for that ſervice.

While Le Noir was liſtening with aſtoniſhment, to the detail of theſe day-dreams, and conſidering within himſelf, what anſwer he ſhould make to a perſon employed in ſuch deep ſpeculations; he was relieved from his dilemma, by a ſervant entering, and announcing Mr. Addlehead.

This Mr. Addlehead was a Britiſh Senator, but not finding himſelf of the conſequence he expected, in that ſituation,

tion, and being verſed in Oriental literature, he turned his mind to the inveſtigation of the myſtical part of the holy Scriptures, and by puzzling his brains with Daniel in the old Teſtament, and the Revelations in the New, he at laſt fancied himſelf inſpired to explain, what the prophet, and the apoſtle had been inſpired to write; till at laſt, like Saul of old, he caught the enthuſiaſm, and began alſo to prophecy himſelf.

The two gentlemen, after mutual ſalutations, entered into an argument on their reſpective ſtudies. While the viſionary politician followed up victory by victory, till, having compleated the

conqueſt of France, he was conſidering what would be the beſt mode of ſecuring Europe againſt her ambitious views in future; the prophet had emptied all the vials of wrath upon his devoted country; and our frightened miſſionary effected his eſcape, juſt as he was on the point of compleating his work, by unchaining the great dragon, and turning him looſe among us.

CHAP.

## CHAP. XXVII.

### A SCENE AMONG GREAT MEN.

LE Noir, as ſoon as he had quitted theſe gentlemen, both of whom, and ſurely not without reaſon, he concluded were infected by *la maladie Angloiſe*, bethought himſelf of a letter he had to a great man, who poſſeſſed an

an hereditary ſeat, in the Britiſh legiſlature. This nobleman, not contented with his political conſequence, as well as the deference that is paid to rank, as much in this country, as in any other in Europe; or with the power he ſhared with his illuſtrious compeers, aſpired to the high dignity of being a fomenter of diſcord, and the head of an unprincipled faction.

To this right honourable demagogue he went, and found his abode among the ſplendid manſions of Groſvenor-ſquare. He knocked at the door, and inquired boldly for his lordſhip, with the confidence of a man, who thinks himſelf ſecure of a cordial

reception. This confidence however was a little damped, by the ſurly behaviour of the porter, whom at laſt, though not without great difficulty, he perſuaded to ſend his name, and letter of recommendation up ſtairs, by one of the footmen,

After waiting nearly half an hour, among the ſervants in the hall, who reguarded him with no very reſpectful eye, he was told that my Lord was not yet dreſſed, and deſired to wait till his toilet was finiſhed; for which purpoſe he was ſhewn into an anti-chamber, where he had the pleaſure of waiting half an hour longer, before

he

he was introduced into his Lordſhip's preſence.

His Lordſhip received him with diſtant civility, aſked coldly after his Paris friends, and received his anſwers with inattention, his eye being principally employed on a paper, he held in his hand, when another noble peer and a baronet were introduced.

Here a political converſation took place, between theſe illuſtrious perſonages, which turned chiefly on the parliamentary debates of the preceding night, and in which *your houſe*, and *our houſe*, *my Lord* and *Sir William*, were

were very prominant features, contrary to Le Noir's expectation, who rather hoped, from the character he had heard of the peer, a dissertation on equality, and the plainer appellation of citizen.

In the midst of this edifying discourse, a gentleman entered, whom Le Noir recollected to be one who took a very active part on the debate concerning invasion, at the Coffee house, the evening before. As their sentiments on that occasion had perfectly coincided, and in consequence of that a temporary intimacy had taken place between them; he felt himself relieved by his entrance, and went up to him

him with all the familiarity of an old acquaintance.

What *his* feelings were on the reception he met with, my readers can judge from their *own*, as moſt of them muſt have experienced the coldneſs, even of an intimate acquaintance, when he is engaged in that ſupreme of all human enjoyments, the company of a great man.

In truth, one can hardly imagine a more prepoſterous piece of meanneſs, than the almoſt univerſal practice of *cutting*, (as it is called) our equals, when in company with thoſe, who, in ceremonial rank, and in that only, we conſider

der as our ſuperiors; that poverty and dependance, ſhould bow to opulence and power, is natural; but for a gentlemen of reſpectable family and connexions, and affluent fortune, to treat his acquaintance, and even his friends with coldneſs and reſerve, becauſe he happens to be in converſation with a man of high rank and conſequence, is an inſtance of ſuch abſurd meanneſs, that one ſhould ſuppoſe it could not exiſt, at leaſt among men of ſenſe and ſpirit, did not every hour's experience convince us of the contrary: indeed the practice of this deſpicable vanity is ſo univerſal, and though every body ſpeaks againſt it, I really do not think I could point out one inſtance, of a perſon

perſon entirely free from it. Neither are any, but thoſe in the higheſt ſituations, compleatly exempted from experiencing its effects; for even a commoner, walking with a Duke or a Prime Miniſter, will *cut* an Iriſh Lord or a Baronet with as little ceremony as he would his tailor or his linen draper.

With this ſcene Le Noir was perfectly diſguſted; after all he had heard of the high ſpirit of the Engliſh, after all he had red in Voltaire and others, of the little regard payed to nobility in this country, he was ſtruck with amazement to find, eſpecially among men, who called themſelves the champions of demo-

democracy, a marked diſtinction between the nominally higher, and lower orders of ſociety, which never exiſted in his own country, when her titled ariſtocracy was in its zenith, and when the real diſtinction between the different orders, in civil and political conſequence, was immenſe.

## CHAP. XXVIII.

### A SOCIETY OF LAWYERS.

AFTER leaving this ſcene of inſolence and meanneſs, Le Noir took his route towards the Temple, to inquire for a young barriſter, of the name of Simkins, to whom he had letters of recommendation. He ſoon found

found his chambers, which were neatly and elegantly furniſhed. Mr. Simkins was a young man of genteel addreſs, and by no means deſtitute of information; but being of too volatile a diſpoſition to purſue the dry courſe of reading, neceſſary for the attainment of deep legal knowledge, he was reſolved to acquire legal reputation at leaſt, at a cheaper rate; and inſtead of poring over muſty volumes to find what the laws of his country were, he reſolved, by a lighter kind of reading, to diſcover, what they ought to be.—Jacob's Law Dictionary, and Blackſtone's Commentaries, compoſed his whole library of Engliſh juriſprudence, but his ſhelves were ſufficiently crowded

with the political works of the philoſophical legiſlators of France, and their learned Engliſh commentators.

From this gentleman our hero received both a polite and a friendly reception. He inquired much after his Pariſian friends, many of whom he found had emigrated, and not a few ſuffered by the guillotine, during the various changes of adminiſtration which had taken place in the French republic. But he conſoled himſelf with the reflection, that they had ſuffered in a glorious cauſe, and concluded, by aſking, with an air of patriotic heroiſm, what was the ſacrifice of thouſands, when put in compariſon with the glory

and

and happineſs they had purchaſed for their country by their death?

Le Noir had now for the firſt time ſince his arrival in England, met with a perſon whoſe principles were perfectly congenial with his own, and the converſation was carried on to the mutual ſatisfaction of both. The Engliſhman informed his friend that he was engaged in the evening at a club of lawyers, of which he was a member, who met every week to debate on legiſlative and literary queſtions, where, if agreeable, he would introduce him; a propoſition that was readily accepted, and the two apoſtles of liberty, after dining together, went at the ap-

pointed hour to the place of rendezvous.

This coterie conſiſted chiefly of ſtudents, attornies clerks, and young men juſt called to the bar, intermixed with a few old practitioners, (if thoſe can be ſo termed, who hardly ever practiced at all,) whoſe legal abilities being overlooked, by the frivolous pretenders of the preſent day, inſtead of haranguing for a fee in Weſtminſter-hall, took this opportunity of detailing their legal erudition gratis, for the inſtruction of theſe riſing hopes of the bar.

A debate immediately commenced, for

for in every meeting in which the gentlemen of the law take a principle ſhare, the converſation ſoon takes that form. Even if only one or two, eſpecially if they are very young, and have no buſineſs, are in a mixed company, they generally contrive to reduce the whole diſcourſe to an argument, in which every opinion muſt be delivered with legal preciſion, and every aſſertion ſupported by legal evidence.

The buſineſs of the night was opened by a lively barriſter, who expatiated with much eloquence, on the deviation of the conſtitution from its original purity, on the corruption of

the Houſe of Commons, on the increaſed influence of the peerage, and the accumulating power of the Crown, and adviſed a recurrence to the firſt principles of the conſtitution, as the only means of ſtopping theſe great and increaſing evils.

To this the pert clerk of an attorney replied, Recurring to what were called firſt principles, he ſaid, was in fact returning to exploded prejudices. That as mankind were gradually growing wiſer and better, it was in the higheſt degree abſurd to look for models of government among the annals of ignorance and vice: That our misfortunes did not ariſe from quitting

quitting old forms, but from continuing them when the time of barbariſm, for which they were calculated, were paſt; he reprobated the whole ſyſtem, which made any portion of rank and property a neceſſary qualification either for an hereditary ſenator, or a popular repreſentative, and praiſed the wiſdom of the French legiſlators, for levelling every impediment that prevented men of ability, of whatever rank or deſcription, from aſpiring to a ſhare in the government, the good effect of which was in no inſtance more conſpicuous, than in the admiſſion of ſo many of the inferior orders of lawyers into the national convention.

'A won-

'A wonderful expedient, indeed, 'cried another barriſter) to admit 'that diſgrace to the profeſſion, the 'petty-fogging attornies to a ſhare in 'the legiſlature.'

This produced a ſharp rejoinder from the young attorney, and the legal argument would probably have brought on a very illegal deciſion, if the company had not interfered, and reconciled the angry diſputants.

The trial by jury was now introduced, and the abuſe of it reprobated, which naturally led to the danger with which the liberty of the ſubject, (or rather the citizen,) was threatened by

by the increaſe of conſtructive treaſons.

This is a ſummary account, but comprehending all the chief matter of a converſation, that laſted ſeveral hours, compreſſed in a ſmall compaſs, juſt as the reporters of the proceedings in parliament contrive to give, in half a dozen columns of a newſpaper, the ſpirit of a twelve hours debate, which if detailed at length would fill a large quarto volume.

The lungs of the young orator being now ſomething wearied, a ſhort pauſe took place; when a grave perſonage in a large wig, which ſeemed formerly

ly to have ſeen ſervice in Weſtminſter Hall, who had hitherto been only an attentive liſtener, began to harangue the aſſembly in theſe words:

'I have for ſeveral years attended 'meetings of this kind, and have ſeen 'many ſucceſſive generations of young 'pleaders, who exhibited their elo-'quence and learning, with great 'brilliancy in private circles, but 'whoſe voice was never afterwards 'heard in our courts of juſtice, and 'this I think is obviouſly to be ac-'counted for. Reaſon and learning 'muſt firſt be acquired by ſtudy and 'experience before they can be ſhewn 'by oratory, but when oratory is

'con-

'conſidered as the firſt acquiſition, it 'is much to be doubted if experience 'and ſtudy will ever follow.

'One gentleman has argued very 'learnedly on the defects and corrup- 'tions of our conſtitution, and pro- 'poſed the recurring to the firſt prin- 'ciples of it as the only way of 'checking their growth. Now that 'gentleman's acquaintance with En- 'gliſh Hiſtory is much more exten- 'ſive than mine if he can point out 'the happy era, when the crown had 'leſs dangerous prerogative, the no- 'bility leſs power, or the people more 'freedom, than at preſent. He will 'undoubtedly find times when bribery

was

‘ was not employed to obtain a ſeat
‘ in the Houſe of Commons, for who
‘ will be at the expence and trouble to
‘ obtain a thing that is not worth either.
‘ Reduce the conſequence of the
‘ Houſe of Commons to the ſame
‘ ſtandard it was in early times, when
‘ it was oppreſſed and threatened by
‘ the prince, and inſulted by the peers.
‘ Empower the yeomen of the guard
‘ to ſay, as was once ſaid, to a mem-
‘ ber of Parliament on the opening
‘ of the ſeſſion, “ Goodman Burgeſs
‘ you come not here,” and you will
‘ find as little bribery and corruption,
‘ as in the pureſt era of our repreſen-
‘ tation.

‘ As

'As for the gentleman who applauds 'the wiſdom of the French, for admit-'ting the lower order of attornies into 'their legiſlative aſſembly, I ſhall not 'preſume raſhly to controvert his opi-'nion, as he appears to be rather of an 'iraſcible diſpoſition. I ſhall only ſay, 'I believe that advantage will not be ſo 'very clear to perſons, who do not be-'long to that reſpectable body. Not 'that I mean to reflect on attornies in 'general, as there is no liberal man in 'that profeſſion, who does not hold in 'deteſtation that pernicious vermin, 'who by their chicanery and extor-'tion, draw down unmerited ſenſure 'on thoſe practitioners who always act 'with rectitude and honour. But here

'I muſt be quite candid; as there is
'no production of nature, however
'noxious it may appear, that is not
'of ſome advantage to the phyſical
'world, ſo the deteſtable tribe of petty
'foggers are of ſome uſe to the moral
'world. Their proverbial depreda-
'tions deter many a poor man, born
'with litigious ſpirit, from ruining
'himſelf and family, by engaging in
'the expences that muſt attend a law
'ſuit, even in the faireſt hands. And
'they are ſome check upon that race
'of provincial tyrants, called country
''ſquires in the commiſſion of the
'peace. As theſe gentlemen, how-
'ever they may differ among them-
'ſelves in county politics, are always
'united

'united againſt poachers and vagrants, 'whom they conſider as the common 'enemy, the laws againſt this ſpecies of 'criminals are often turned to engines 'of oppreſſion. Now as the more 'reſpectable attornies in the country, 'are generally connected, either as 'ſtewards, agents, or clerks, with ſome 'one of theſe Nimrods, the only per-'ſons they are at all in awe of, are 'the petty-foggers, who ſometimes 'undertake to bring actions againſt 'them upon ſpeculation.

'To what has been ſaid on the 'abuſe of juries, and the increaſe of 'conſtructive treaſons, the late acquit-'tals would afford a concluſive anſwer,

'did not ſome perſons think, that
'bringing a mob to the doors of a
'court of juſtice, that flattering a
'jury for delivering a verdict, and
'intimidating ſubſequent others by
'threats of injury, inſults, and calumny,
'ſhould they deviate from that ex-
'ample, was not exactly the moſt
'likely mode of enſuring ſtrict and
'impartial juſtice. As for the ac-
'quittals themſelves, perhaps they
'were right, as it is dangerous for the
'miniſters of juſtice, to pronounce
'any act criminal, that is not clearly
'defined ſo by the letter of the law,
'and yet, the reaſons on which theſe
'acquittals were founded, ſeem to be

'attended

'attended with a real, if not a legal
'abſurdity.

'With all poſſible regard for his
'Majeſty's perſon, I muſt feel that
'the reaſon of its being guarded ſo
'carefully, that any attempt againſt it
'is the higheſt crime our laws know,
'can riſe only from its ſafety involv-
'ving that of the whole ſtate. Now
'to make an attack on the ſafety of
'the whole ſtate, through the king's
'perſon the higheſt of poſſible crimes,
'and to make a direct attempt to
'ſubvert the conſtitution not imme-
'diately, though certainly in con-
'ſequence, endangering the perſon of

'the king, no crime at all, ſeems to 'me a legal ſoleciſm.'

Here the old gentleman ſtopped,—and as none of the former ſpeakers choſe to defend their doctrines againſt his objections, owing I ſuppoſe to their contempt of his narrow way of thinking, the company ſoon after diſperſed.

CHAP.

## CHAP. XXIX.

### DEBATE ON A REFORM OF PARLIAMENT.

MR. Simkin the next day introduced Le Noir to another gentleman of the ſame equalizing principles with himſelf, and they introduced him in the evening to a club, of which they both were members,

which was inſtituted for the purpoſe of finding out, and effecting, the beſt mode of reforming the repreſentation of the people in Parliament.

A meeting for ſo ſerious a purpoſe, was not to be held over any libation of an exhilerating nature. Coffee and tea were the only refection admitted, and the buſineſs began exactly at eight o'clock in the evening; Mr. Cheſhire in the chair.

The debate was opened by an eloquent ſpeech from the Preſident, who after ſtating the many enormities that exiſted in our government, *all* of which he contended could be traced to the inadequacy

inadequacy of the repreſentation, but eſpecially the calamities of the war, the high price of proviſions, and the unexampled ſeverity of the winter; requeſted the members ſeverally to point out, what they eſteemed the beſt means of remedying this radical defect; adding that in a multitude of counſellors there is ſafety.

The firſt ſpeaker's propoſition was, that every individual in the iſland, except infants and ideots ſhould have the right of voting.—Juſt as he was arranging the manner in which theſe numerous voters were to be taken without confuſion among the electors, or partiality in the returning officers, a perſon ſtarting up, exclaimed:

'And why exclude any claſs of 'perſons whatever from the right, 'the natural inherent right of univer- 'ſal ſuffrage? And why particular- 'ly infants and ideots? On the ſame 'pretence you might exclude old wo- 'men and madmen, and heaven 'knows who might not be diſquali- 'fied under one or the other of theſe 'pretences. Beſides, ſir, are we not 'told that the moſt ſublime truths, 'have come from the mouths of babes 'and ſucklings?—and do not the 'Mahometans conſider ideots, as act- 'ing under immediate inſpiration.'

Another gentleman now aroſe, and propoſed the convention of France as a model

a model, and that the people at large ſhould chooſe certain perſons, who ſhould nominate the repreſentatives. 'In Scotland, (he added, for he was 'a North Britain) ſomething like this 'is actually the caſe at preſent, ſeveral 'boroughs elect each a burgeſs, and 'theſe chuſe the repreſentatives.'

'Nothing at all like it, anſwered an 'Hibernian, we manage things better 'and more peaceably in Ireland. We 'try firſt to ſettle things amicably, 'and if we cannot, we cut one ano-'ther's throats till we can.'

But neither the vicarious election of Scotland, nor the pacific one of Ireland

land ſeemed to pleaſe the company, who now began to declare their different opinions promiſcuouſly, without paying much regard to the order preſcribed by the rules of the ſociety, or the remonſtrances of the preſident. In truth, though the uſe of wine was denied during the ſitting of the club, many of the members, inſtead of previouſly qualifying themſelves for ſpeaking in public by the uſe of Dr. Hill's tincture of ſage, had taken, and that not ſparingly, the more pleaſant cordials, either of wine or porter, according to the ability of their finances.

A thouſand diſcordant ſyſtems of reform were now introduced in confuſion, all

all abſurd in theory and impracticable in execution. One was for reſtricting, another for enlarging the right of ſuffrage; this was for ſinking, that for raiſing the amount of the qualification; ſome were for dividing the nation into larger, and ſome into ſmaller diſtricts; ſome were for having every voter's name, and that of the perſon he voted for, printed and publiſhed, and others for ſkreening his ſuffrage by ballot. In ſhort every thing was propoſed that could be ſuggeſted by folly, and uttered by impudence.

In the midſt of this chaos of debate, the gentleman who had ſo ably aſſerted the rights of infants and ideots to vote,

vote, again got up, and after a long ſtruggle, the ſpirits of ſome being exhauſted by argument, and moſt of them either ſtupified or fallen aſleep, he obtained a hearing, and began as follows.

'I have conſidered the temper of 'mankind with great attention, and I 'have found, without exception, that 'wherever people do not act for 'themſelves, they are ill ſerved; and 'the reaſon is obvious. It is much 'more eaſy to perſuade others, and 'even ourſelves, that we are qualified 'for an office, than to take the trouble 'of really being qualified. For one 'perſon, who wiſhing to be an active

'member

'member of ſociety, takes pains to 'acquire the reqùiſite accompliſh-'ments, a thouſand ſtudy the tempers 'and flatter the paſſions of thoſe who 'have the means of employing them, 'and of the firſt few, not one in 'twenty ſucceeds; of the latter multi-'tude, not one in twenty fails. This 'is the origin of favouritiſm in mo-'narchies and popularity in republics; 'for both are characters of the ſame 'colour, and their influence acquired 'by the ſame means. When I ſee a 'county member, inſtead of reſting 'his claim to future confidence, on 'his independant and diligent conduct 'in Parliament, attending every race, 'aſſembly, fox-hunt, and bowling

'club

‘ club in the county; I ſee the exact
‘ counter part of the man who gains
‘ the confidence of his ſovereign, by
‘ becoming a pander to his vice, or a
‘ flatterer of his vanity, inſtead of being
‘ his honeſt and faithful counſellor;
‘ in either caſe the prince and the peo-
‘ ple are alike dupes, the favourite and
‘ the demagogue, contemptible para-
‘ ſites.

‘ I have myſelf a right to vote in
‘ more places than one, and I have
‘ made it an invariable rule, never to
‘ give my ſuffrage to that candidate,
‘ who was very ſolicitous to obtain it.
‘ It is the undoubted duty of every
‘ elector, to chuſe an upright and an

‘ intel-

‘ intelligent man for his repreſenta-
‘ tive. But no man can be very
‘ earneſtly anxious to obtain a ſitua-
‘ tion, where a great deal of trouble
‘ and attendance are only rewarded
‘ by a conſciouſneſs of having diſ-
‘ charged his duty, without an abſurd
‘ vanity in over valuing his abilities,
‘ and his integrity, or a much worſe
‘ motive, as in general a ſtrong de-
‘ ſire for power is accompanied with
‘ as ſtrong a wiſh to abuſe it. For
‘ this reaſon, I firmly believe then
‘ the men beſt qualified, in every reſ-
‘ pect to ſerve their country in Par-
‘ liament are thoſe who never put
‘ themſelves in the way of being
‘ choſen.

'It is well known, that the affairs 'of a monarchy are never ſo well 'conducted as when an able prince is 'his own miniſter, but a people can-'not act for themſelves, they muſt 'delegate their authority, and the 'beſt mode of repreſentation is that, 'which gives the faireſt proſpect of 'that authority being delegated to 'the moſt proper perſons.

'Now gentlemen I will mention 'the plan that appears to me the 'moſt likely to accompliſh this pur-'poſe, I would neither chuſe our 'members by open vote nor by bal-'lot, but by lot, as our Militia-men 'are choſen; by adopting this me-

'thod

'thod there would at leaſt be a chance,
'that ſome men might be choſen
'the moſt fit to be entruſted to watch
'over our welfare; and our deareſt
'rights would not be left to the care
'of thoſe, of all men the leaſt pro-
'per to protect them, and to whom
'the purchaſer of a venal borough is
'comparatively an independant ſena-
'tor, I mean the knave, who buys
'and betrays our confidence, by the
'ſervile and deſpicable arts of popu-
'larity.

'I know Shenſtone has twice vin-
'dicated popularity, which he ſays,
'ariſes from an amiable cauſe, the love
'of being beloved. But popularity

'is ſeldom conſidered as an end; but 'as a means of obtaining another end; 'a man who courts popularity feels 'the ſame pleaſure in being beloved 'with a mercenary beauty, who uſes 'her charms as the engines of avarice 'or ambition.'

Here he finiſhed his eccentric harangue, which was received with a murmur between applauſe and cenſure, and many allowed there were ſome traits of reaſon in it, intermixed with a large portion either of abſurdity or irony, they could not exactly determine which: And here ended the debate on parliamentary reform, but which was ſucceeded by a debate of another kind.

CHAP.

## CHAP. XXX.

### A DEBATE ON THE REFORM OF THE DEBATING CLUB.

A Motion had been made at the preceding meeting, and which was to be taken into conſideration at this, after the public buſineſs of the ſociety was cloſed, for putting the election of the preſident, and the

general management of the club under new regulations, and into other hands than thoſe where they were at preſent veſted. The perſon who brought forward this propoſition contended, that much abuſe had crept into every part of the arrangement; that many rules incapable of being obſerved were adopted, and thoſe few that were good were never carried into execution, and that the whole management was monopolized, by a few ſelf-appointed members, under the ſpecious name of a committee, to the excluſion of all the reſt, who had an equal right to be conſulted; and he concluded by moving, that a new committee ſhould be appointed, to take into conſidera-

tion

tion the ſtate of the ſociety, and report it to the next meeting.

This was warmly oppoſed, ſome urged that no grievances exiſted, while others diſplayed at large the danger of innovation in a ſociety, which had hitherto anſwered the purpoſe for which it was intended, and the difficulty to know how far even ſmall changes might extend, ultimately perhaps to its compleat diſſolution.

One perſon, who was a moſt violent Democrat, ſaid, he perfectly agreed with the mover, that great abuſes did exiſt in the adminiſtration of the ſociety; but totally diſagreed as to

the remedy propoſed. He felt the monopolizing ſpirit of the committee, but that ſpirit would be the ſame in any other. It is not this or that committee that was bad, but committees themſelves, and till they were aboliſhed, the evil complained of muſt exiſt, why ſhould ſix men be wiſer than ſixty? Let the ſociety at large take the management of its own affairs, and let every regulation be framed by all the members, who happen to be preſent.

This propoſition was immediately adopted by acclamation, and the whole ſociety immediately proceeded to buſineſs. But as the adoption of the plan,

plan, was the only thing in which they were unanimous, and as that adoption had annulled all the previous rules for keeping any order in their debates, all were desirous of speaking and none of hearing. This of course produced much clamour and confusion, which was gradually increased by its own exertion, till the assembly became another Babel; for those who were too diffident to exert their eloquence, when they drew the attention of the whole room, embraced this opportunity of exercising their lungs at least, if not their oratory, when all spoke, and none attended.

Words however did continue long

the ſole arguments. Thoſe moſt earneſt in the debate, finding it impoſſible to gain the attention of the whole room, detailed their ſentiments to their neighbours, and as theſe ſentiments were ſometimes diſcordant, and the mode of enforcing them was not reſtrained by the ear of the whole company, warm argument ſoon kindled into perſonal abuſe, which by as natural a proceſs came to perſonal violence, and in a ſhort time many of the company exhibited bloody noſes and broken heads. The furniture of the room began alſo to ſuffer, as well tables and chairs, as the more fragile ornaments of the beaufet, till at laſt the landlord found it neceſſary to interfere.

terfere, and by the aſſiſtance of the watchmen, obliged the aſſembly to adjourn *ſine die*, ſwearing he would never ſuffer another reforming club to enter his doors.

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CHAP.

## CHAP. XXXI.

### EULOGIUM ON DESPOTISM.

OUR hero and his associates left this scene of confusion, and went to pass the remainder of the evening, at a Coffee house near the Temple. They were joined on their way by the paradoxical gentlemen, who

who had been ſo conſpicuous in the firſt debate, but were both ſilent and inactive in the laſt.

They naturally fell into diſcourſe on the ſcene they had juſt left, and Mr. Simkins obſerved on the impracticability of a multitude governing by themſelves, and was going on with a panegyric of repreſentative aſſemblies, if freely choſen, when he was thus cut ſhort by the ſtranger.

'Impoſſible for a multitude to 'govern, ſir? I ſay it is not more im-'poſſible for ten thouſand, than for ten, 'or even two to govern; from the 'nature of things they are equally 'impoſſible;

'impoſſible; from the beginning of 'time there never has been, and to 'the end of time there never can be 'any other form of government, than 'the arbitrary will of one man.'

On the other's expreſſing the utmoſt degree of ſurpriſe at this ſtrange aſſertion, the man of paradox went on, 'I am aware of the novelty of this 'doctrine, but I am nevertheleſs firmly convinced of the truth of it, as I 'am ſure every one will be, who will 'examine the matter impartially, and 'conſult his reaſon and his experience, 'inſtead of his prejudices.'

'There is in fact no exiſting 'govern-

'government but monarchy. Under 'whatever form the government of a 'country may nominally be, it is al-'ways actually administered by one 'person only. This does not extend 'to political systems alone, it origi-'nates in the nature of man. One 'act, one deliberation can only pro-'ceed from one person: This is ob-'vious in every concern of life, from 'the management of an empire to a 'cottage. It must be remembered 'however that this despotic power is 'by no means always, or indeed often 'lodged where it is supposed to be. 'For one kingdom that is governed by 'the king, one hundred are governed 'by the minister. For one family that

'is

'is managed by the maſter, ten thou-
'ſand at leaſt are managed by the
'wife. As for the mode in which
'deſpotiſm is exerciſed, in thoſe abo-
'minable tyrannies which are called
'republics, the proceedings of any
'public meeting will ſufficiently illuſ-
'trate.'

'Suppoſe a number of independant
'perſons aſſembled, for the purpoſe
'of procuring an incloſure or a turn-
'pike bill, of addreſſing the king, or
'petitioning the parliament. How do
'they proceed, while they are in a
'body nothing can be done, after a
'great deal of noiſe and nonſenſe, a
'committee is appointed to ſettle the
'form

'form of the proceedings, and draw 'up the reſolutions. They retire to 'do this, and the noiſe and nonſenſe 'recommences. Now the deſpot 'comes forward, Mr. Plauſible is 'placed in the chair, either by his 'own offer, or called on by ſome of 'his ſatellites; he writes, the com-'mittee approves, and the general 'meeting ratify. And this is the caſe, 'with ſome few trifling differences, '(as ſometimes a nominal deſpot is 'placed in the chair, whom the real 'deſpot flatters and governs) in every 'public meeting I ever ſaw, from the 'houſe of Commons, to a catch 'club.

'There

'There is an obſervation I have 'alſo made about your democrats, 'they are generally your half begot- 'ten whipperſnappers, who in the firſt 'commotion would be trod to pieces, 'while your ſtout jolly fellows are 'almoſt always loyal ſubjects and 'peaceable citizens; is it not enough 'to make one ſick to hear ſuch an 'abortion as that Mr. Spindle, who 'without the ſtrength of a louſe, or 'the ſenſe of a greyhound puppy, has 'a beautiful wife and a large fortune, 'prating about equality and the rights 'of man, as if any thing but the ac- 'cidental diſtribution of fortune, could 'have given him poſſeſſion either of 'beauty or affluence. Place that man

'in

'in a ſtate (if ſuch a ſtate could be) 'where all are equal, he could gain 'his bread only by begging, and he 'would find it difficult indeed to get 'a beggar woman, even though ſhe 'was old and deformed to marry him.'

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## CHAP. XXXII.

### ADVENTURE IN A COFFEE HOUSE.

THIS converſation led them to the place of their deſtination, which they entered together, and ſeating themſelves, called for the newſpaper. Their attention was ſoon drawn off, by a young man in a military dreſs, who

who threw down a paper he was reading, and exclaimed, 'This is 'cruelly hard indeed, (I am afraid 'he uſed a more prophane epithet) 'that ſuch things ſhould be, here is 'a boy has juſt got the rank of 'Lieutenant Colonel, who has not 'been in the army above a twelve 'month, and I have only juſt got a 'company.'

This ſpeech, ſhort as it was, received the embelliſhment of ſeveral of the epithets juſt alluded to.

'Sir (ſaid an old officer who ſat at 'an adjoining table) if you have a 'company, I do not conceive you can

'have great cauſe for complaint,
'as from your age you cannot have
'been any long time in the ſervice, I
'ſir, have only the rank of captain,
'and was in the army many years
'before you could have been born.'

This reproof ſtopped the young man for a moment, but his volatile ſpirits ſoon got over the check, and he continued his cenſures of the arrangement of the army, and particularly of the ſcandalous effects of influence and intereſt, in putting boys over the heads of older officers, of which he recurred again to his firſt mentioned example, as a moſt ſtriking inſtance.

This

This converſation ſoon arreſted the attention of our hero and his companions, and at laſt they entered into a communication of ideas with the young ſoldier, whoſe ſpirit ſeemed in ſome meaſure congenial with their own; encouraged by the attention they gave him, his complaints grew more violent, and his expreſſions more unguarded, till at laſt, uſing the expreſſion of ſoldier-citizen, (for he had been in the Weſtminſter Militia) and laughing at the abſurdity of military prejudices, it induced Le Noir to introduce the army of France.

In the courſe of his panegyric on the ſoldiers of France, he mentioned

with peculiar applauſe, their want of perſonal attachment to their officers; and he praiſed them for having given up that abſurd point of military honour, which occaſioned duels.

If a man was angry, he ſaid, aſſaſſination might be excuſeable becauſe it was natural,* but to hazard life on equal terms in ſingle combat, with a perſon who has injured us, is an abſurdity to which no name can be given; but thank heaven, ſaid he, the age of chivalry is paſt with us, our

* Le Noir is a plagiary here, he has borrowed this cowardly diabolical poſition from a treatiſe againſt prejudices, by one of the modern philoſophers of France.

our ſoldiers, when impelled by a ſenſe of the ſacred duties of freedom and equality, are neither checked by the commands of the officers, the reſpect to rank and virtue, the tears of kneeling beauty, or the cries of weeping infancy, warm in the ſacred cauſe, on they go ——

'To their infernal maſter the devil, '(cried the young officer) the proper 'rewarder of ſuch bloody hell hounds. 'A ſoldier who diſobeys his com-'manding officer, who can be capa-'ble of uſing any woman, and eſpe-'cially a pretty woman, ill, is a ſcoun-'drel that ought to be kicked out of 'company, as well as thoſe who are

• raſcals enough to defend ſuch abo-
• minable doctrines.

Saying this the young captain jumped up, fully determined to execute this piece of juſtice, and as he ſeemed by no means deficient in ſtrength or ſpirit, and the majority of the company (moſt of whom were military men) appeared rather inclined to ſecond his efforts than oppoſe them, while his two legal friends ſtood neuter, having no inclination to engage perſonally in an action of aſſault and battery, Le Noir would certainly have been turned out of the room violently, had not the old officer interfered.

He declared his diſapprobation of the indecent and ſeditious ſentiments, the ſtranger had uttered, yet he could not but own, that he had partly been led on by the unguarded expreſſions, by the intereſted as well as unfounded complaints of the young Engliſhman, who certainly had very little right to be diſcontented with his rank in the army. He added, if gentlemen would indulge themſelves in wantonly abuſing government, for not doing more for them, when if there is any blame, it is for having already done too much, they had no right to be angry if ſtrangers, and eſpecially foreigners, ſhould miſtake capricious diſcontent

for

for rooted diſaffection, and deliver their own opinions accordingly.

This remark allayed the external, if not the internal reſentment of the young warriors, and encouraged Le Noir to reſume his favourite topic, and to enlarge particularly on the ſincere and fraternal regard his countrymen had for the people of England, however much they might be offended with the Engliſh government.

'Hold, ſir, (cried the old officer) 'here I muſt differ from you; I have 'had ſome experience, and have ſtill 'ſome recollection of the behaviour 'of the French to the people of this 'country;

'country; and I am convinced their
'averſion to us is rooted. Our com-
'mon people it is true are apt to
'inſult and laugh at the French, and
'your common people uſed to flatter
'the Engliſh for the money they ſpent
'among them, and hence ours were
'cenſured for national prejudice, and
'yours extolled for liberality of ſen-
'timent. But we never hated you,
'as you have done us. In whatever
'ſituation you have been, the de-
'preſſion of England has been your
'favourite object. When we baniſh-
'ed a race of tyrannic princes, you
'ſtrained every nerve to force them
'and their government again upon
'us. When we wanted to recover

'our

'our revolted colonies, you then, tho'
'againſt the principles of your own
'government, trumpeted the doctrines
'of independance in their ears, you
'knew the experiment was hazardous
'to you, it proved fatal; but you knew
'alſo you could injure us by the at-
'tempt, and that was ſufficient.

'As an abſolute monarchy you
'were our inveterate enemies, as an
'unprincipled anarchy you are our
'inveterate enemies, whatever may
'be our reſpective relation to each
'other, you always conſider our hap-
'pineſs as your miſery, our depreſ-
'ſion as your exaltation. Theſe are
'ſentiments that no Engliſhman feels
'with

'with regard to you, but the reaſon 'is obvious. No one hates the enemy 'he deſpiſes, but even an indifferent 'perſon becomes the hated enemy of 'thoſe, who both envy him and fear 'him.'

Here the officer ceaſed, whether the reaſon he aſſigned for the different kind of animoſity, in which the rival nations hold each other, was entirely juſt or tinctured by national prejudices, the impartial reader will judge.

CHAP.

## CHAP. XXXIII.

### OUR HERO FALLS IN WITH A PARTY, WHO POSSESS THE REAL SPIRIT OF EQUALIZATION.

THE three friends now parted for the night, and in the morning our adventurer as uſual, repaired to a Coffee-houſe for his breakfaſt, always chuſing a new one, as variety of acquaintance

quaintance was one of his particular objects.

He now choſe one of no very promiſing appearance, to inveſtigate the higher and middle ranks was not ſo much his end, as to ſound the diſpoſition of thoſe juſt above the populace, whom he expected to find in the metropolis, better inclined towards his favourite ſyſtem than any other; for as to perſons poſſeſſing even a moderate ſhare of property, he had now learned from experience, however fond they might be of theoretical equality, they were not fond of hazarding any ſtep towards the practical part.

But

But on entering the coffee-houſe, to his great ſurpriſe he found a party, of a very genteel appearance, ſeated at one of the tables. He ſat down near them, and with the uſual affability of his country, made ſome attempts to join in the converſation, which he was agreeably ſurpriſed to find were not repelled with that coldneſs, which is uſual in the people of this country when addreſſed by ſtrangers.

The preſent party were of a different complexion, they received his overtures of friendly communication with pleaſure, from which circumſtances and the polite freedom of their manners, he conjectured they had been

ſome

ſome time abroad, and in this he was not miſtaken.

After ſome deſultory remarks on the common occurrences of the day, Le Noir began to ſearch for the political opinions of his companions, and to his infinite delight, found them after his own heart. The levelling of rank and equalization of property, were meaſures they adopted in their fulleſt extent, and a cloſe league of amity was immediately entered into between theſe gentlemen and our adventurer, whom they admitted as an aſſociate.

Such of our readers as are not much converſant with the metropolis

may perhaps be ſurpriſed to find, that this elegant party was in fact a gang of gentlemen pickpockets, ſuch as the noted Barrington, and other worthies, who dreſs in the moſt faſhionable manner, mix with the moſt faſhionable company, frequent every place of amuſement, live well, inhabit good houſes, and pay their tradeſmen punctually, and all this by depredations on the public.

That this evil has long exiſted is well known, both to the legiſlature and the magiſtrates; but it is not to be ſo eaſily remedied, as ſome ſanguine reformers are apt to imagine; a thouſand plans plauſible in theory may be ſuggeſted,

ſuggeſted, but the queſtion is whether any of thoſe plans can be put in execution, without reducing the Engliſh ſubject to ſuch occaſional reſtriction, that no Engliſhman either could, or ſhould endure.

Our watches and purſes are undoubtedly valuable, but are they worth preſerving, (when not taken with violence) by the ſacrifice of that abſolute freedom, that power every individual enjoys of doing what he pleaſes, if not acting againſt ſome poſitive law? which never was enjoyed under any form of civil ſociety, but the Britiſh conſtitution, and which he is a bold partizan of ſpeculative theory, againſt accumu-

lated experience, who will augur can ever be enjoyed under any other.

With this party did Le Noir ſpend his day, and his evening; after ſupper it was agreed that they ſhould go together to the maſquerade, which happened to be on that night. Hiring therefore maſks and dominos, they all ſet out for the Opera houſe.

CHAP.

## CHAP. XXXIV.

### A MASQUERADE SCENE AND ITS CONSEQUENCE.

NOTHING particular paſſed in the early part of the night, as nothing is ſo inſipid as an Engliſh maſquerade before ſupper, though nothing is more diſſolute and riotous than one after ſupper.

But as ſoon as the company were ſufficiently elevated by the good things of the ſupper room, and the hours of morning advanced, our hero's new friends began to exerciſe the dexterity of their function, till at laſt one making rather a bold puſh at an officer's watch, whoſe tailor in the conſtruction of the fob, had more conſidered his cuſtomer's property, than the advantage of the light fingered fraternity, he was ſeized in the fact.

Immediately the whole gang tried to extricate their comrade, but he was in the poſſeſſion of a ſtout Hibernian, whoſe gripe was not eaſily eluded or his reſolution eaſily ſhaken. They then

then took off their maſks, and appearing as gentlemen, tried to intereſt the company in his favour. Some ſaying they knew him to be an officer, and threatening the captor with the conſequences of military reſentment, while others aſſuming the characters of lawyers, tried to intimidate him by the conſequences of legal proſecution.

The Iriſh officer was not of a temper to be alarmed by the threats of either civil or military vengeance. He aſſerted he had caught him in the act of picking his pocket, and was determined to detain him, let the conſequences be what they might.

His comrades now tried to liberate him by violence, and many of the lookers on, deceived by his genteel appearance, and that of his friends, joined in the attempt; when luckily the officers of juſtice who were in the room, to protect the company againſt ſuch depredators, came up and interfered. They immediately knew the whole party to be of ſuſpicious, or rather notorious character, and after ſome trifling oppoſition they ſecured them all, as well as ſome of thoſe who had too actively aſſiſted in the reſcue, and they were all, including our hero, conveyed to the round houſe.

In

In the morning they were taken before a magiſtrate, which happened to be the ſame before whom Le Noir had appeared on the crimping buſineſs.

On inquiring into the affair the deſign of the whole gang was ſo notorious, and their connexion with the perſon taken in the fact, ſo evidently proved, both by the Iriſh officer and the conſtables, that they were all committed for trial. But it appearing that the ſtanders by who had interfered, were deceived by the genteel appearance, and plauſible pretences of the criminals, and had no real intention of interrupting the execution of the law, or

inſult-

inſulting its miniſters, they were diſmiſſed after receiving a reprimand from the magiſtrate, with a caution not always to judge of perſons by their dreſs and appearance.

Among theſe Le Noir had the good luck to be included, and he would have gone off with the reſt, if the worthy magiſtrate on recollecting his face, had not thought it right, as he was a foreigner, to warn him particularly from keeping company with perſons he did not well know, as he had once before been near ſuffering ſeverely, from an indiſcretion of the ſame kind.

While

While he was liſtening to his worſhipful monitor, a naval officer came in, bringing with him a genteel young Frenchman, to have a certificate under the Alien Bill.

The Frenchman on ſeeing Le Noir inſtantly changed colour, and turning round whiſpered ſomething very earneſtly to his friend, who addreſſing himſelf to the magiſtrate, informed him the young foreigner declared he knew Le Noir well, and knew him to bear a moſt infamous character.

The ſtranger's eyes, while this was paſſing were lighted up with indignation, and Le Noir hung down his head with

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with every ſymptom of ſhame and fear. And at this the reader will not wonder, when he is informed that the young Frenchman was the Chevalier Florenville, who had been already mentioned in this hiſtory.

The Chevalier opened to the magiſtrate all he knew of Le Noir, thro' the ſea officer who interpreted for him. as he ſpoke little Engliſh. On this teſtimony of his bad character, and ſome perſons proving that he had been the whole day in company with the gang, an order was made to commit him to the ſame place of confinement with the reſt.

CHAP.

## CHAP. XXXV.

### CONCLUSION OF THE STORY OF THE COUNT DE TOURNELLES, AND THE FAIR ADELAIDE.

WHILE the commitment was making out, another gentleman was announced. This proved to be Mr. Newcomb, who being in town upon buſineſs, came to the office on a viſit to one of the magiſtrates, who was his particular friend.

Among

Among other things the circumſtance of the caſe which had juſt been heard, with the name of Le Noir being mentioned, Mr. Newcomb deſired to ſee him, and on his being brought up to the bar, directly recognized the face of the perſon who had been introduced into his houſe by Dr. Portwell.

As he was informing the magiſtrate what he had heard of him at Wincheſter, he of courſe was led to mention the name of the Count De Tournelles. The Chevalier caught at this with an agony of impatience, and ſoon learned through the medium of his Engliſh

liſh friend, that his lovely Adelaide and her father, were not only ſafe and in England, but actually at the preſent moment in London, having come up for the ſole purpoſe of inquiry after the Chevalier, of whom they had heard ſome vague reports, from a French priſoner lately brought to Wincheſter.

Mr. Newcomb immediately took the Chevalier to the Count's lodgings, when the rapture that attended the unexpected meeting, may be better conceived by the imagination than deſcribed by the pen.

When

When the firſt effuſions of love and affection had ſubſided, curioſity took its turn; and the Chevalier was deſired to give a recital of all that had happened to him ſince their ſeparation at Toulon.

The narrative related many hair-breath eſcapes from death or impriſonment, and many dreadful ſcenes of devaſtation and bloodſhed, that he had witneſſed in his journey from Toulon, through the different provinces of France, till he reached the frontiers of Germany.

There he joined a body of emi-

grants

grants, who made a part of the imperial army, and who were afterwards detached for the defence of Holland. On the irruption of the French into that wretched and infatuated country, he was expoſed to new and greater dangers. His regiment was too far advanced into the country, to accompany the Britiſh and Imperial armies in their retreat. Finding themſelves preſſed by their implacable fellow countrymen in front, and deſerted, or rather betrayed, on every ſide by the treacherous and daſtardly Hollanders, they were compelled to diſband and ſeek their ſafety individually.

'The ſcene that I now witneſſed (he ſaid) exceeding in horror, if poſſible, thoſe which I had experienced before. I ſaw my brave companions in arms, hunted from their retreats like beaſts of pray. I ſaw them either ſhot in the purſuit, or butchered in cold blood by their mercileſs perſecutors, while the bare and treacherous miſcreants whom they came to protect, tried to acquire favour with their new maſters, by diſcovering every place of their concealment.

'It was ſome conſolation to ſee theſe wretches reap the fruits of their

'own

'own perfidy and cowardice, I be-
'held them expoſed to the worſt of
'all calamities that can fall upon a
'nation. Miſerable and cruel as the
'ſituation of my own country is, we
'have at leaſt preſerved our indepen-
'dence, it is our own arm that deſ-
'troys us; but the people of Hol-
'land have bowed to a foreign yoke.
'They hold every thing that is dear
'to them as men and as citizens,
'from the precarious will of an inſul-
'ting and victorious enemy, and ſer-
'vitude would be imbittered, by the
'infamy of ſubmitting to it without
'a ſtruggle, were they not callous to
'every ſenſe of virtue and honour.
'There is one point only in which

'they are tremblingly alive, I mean 'their property; when that is put in 'a ſtate of requiſition by their new 'allies, they will feel all the horrors 'of their fate, and like the Cartha- 'genians of old*, they will pour the 'tear of anguiſh and deſpair over 'their

* Now Punic pride its final eve ſurvey'd,
Its hoſts exhauſted, and its fleets on fire;
Patient the Victor's lurid frown obey'd,
And ſaw the unwilling elephants retire.

But when their gold depreſs'd the yielding ſcale,
Their gold in pyramidic plenty piled;
* He ſaw th' unutterable grief prevail,
He ſaw their tears, and in his fury ſmiled.

Why weep ye now! ye ſaw with tearleſs eye,
When your fleet periſh'd on the Punic wave,
Where lurk'd the coward tear, the lazy ſigh,
When Tyre's imperial ſtate commenced a ſlave?

SHINSTONE.

*HANNIBAL.

'their devoted wealth, that never 'flowed when they ſaw their fields, 'their cities, and their fleets in the 'poſſeſſion of an army of ſtrangers.

'Among ſuch ſcenes of horrors the 'care of my own life ſeemed hardly 'an object, but the natural impulſe 'of ſelf preſervation determined me 'not to throw it wantonly away.— 'After many dangers, I with a few of 'my friends, got to the borders of 'the ſea, or rather of the vaſt ſheets 'of ice, that now formed its ſhores. 'We ſaw ſeveral veſſels at a diſtance 'but it was impoſſible for them to ap- 'proach. Here we were overtaken 'and nearly ſurrounded, by a large

'party

'party of French and Dutch republicans. Our death now appeared inevitable*, and our only remaining care was to render our own deſtruction as fatal as poſſible to our enemies. At this critical moment a party of Engliſh ſailors, commanded by this gallant and humane officer, ſeeing our ſituation, pulled in their boat as near to the ſhore as the ice would permit, and getting upon it ran to their aſſiſtance; on their approach

* M. Juryniac de Meard in his account of the thirty eight hours agony, mentions the determination of himſelf and his friends, to receive the ſtroke of death without reſiſtance, as the beſt mode of avoiding pain. But is bodily pain the chief horror of death? ſurely the perſon who falls in the act of reſiſtance diſarms his diſſolution of half its terrors.

'proach they gave a ſhout, and charg-
'ed the enemy ſword in hand, with
'the fury of lions, who though great-
'ly ſuperior to us all in numbers,
'ſought their ſafety by flight. We
'were immediately conveyed in the
'boat to an Engliſh frigate, which
'landed us in ſafety on this hoſpita-
'ble ſhore; which now preſents me
'with objects, that convince me my
'life was worth preſerving.'

The Count and his beautiful daugh-
ter, were divided between expreſſion
of joy, for the unexpected ſafety of
the Chevalier, and gratitude to his
brave and generous deliverer, whoſe
good offices did not end here. He

was a younger ſon of a nobleman high in power, to whoſe protection he recommended the unfortunate wanderers, and who obtained a comfortable ſubſiſtence for them, till happier times may reſtore them to their native ſeats and paternal inheritance. They felt their depreſſion leſs, from knowing they had not meanly abandoned their country as too many of the nobleſſe had done on the firſt proſpect of the ſtorm, but had ſtruggled to the laſt againſt it, and had not forſaken their ſtation while it was tenable.

The Chevalier ſoon afterwards received the hand of his beloved Adelaide, and if the fatality that hangs over

their

their own infatuated country, ſhould never permit them to return in peace to its boſom, this country will not be aſhamed of having adopted the children of honour, virtue and fidelity.

## CHAP. XXXVI.

### WHICH CONCLUDES THE HISTORY.

OUR adventurer remained in priſon till the next ſeſſions when he was tried for the felony with his comrades. The reſt were convicted and ſentenced to be tranſported to Botany Bay. But Le Noir had not

the honour of extending his political miſſion to ſo diſtant a region; for as no fact appeared to implicate him in the actual commiſſion of the crime, though many circumſtances were againſt him, and his character was proved to be very bad, he was acquitted.

But the legiſlature having wiſely armed the executive government, with the power of ſending away ſuch active citizens of a neighbouring nation, as migrate hither for the purpoſe of imparting to us the ſame liberal ſyſtem they have eſtabliſhed at home, and there being abundant proof of Le Noir's great diligence in forwarding this benevolent intention, he was com-

pelled under the authority of the Alien bill, to leave the kingdom. And he may now entertain his countrymen, if he pleaſes, with florid deſcriptions of the abject and voluntary ſlavery of the people of this country; the tyranny of our laws, the arbitrary manner in which they are executed, and the ſtupid and paſſive diſpoſition of thoſe who ſubmit to them.

FINIS.

# REMARKS ON THE WORK,

## IN THE BRITISH CRITIC, FOR JAN. 1796.

"WE have ſeen lately but few Productions under this Title, poſſeſſed of qualities to reſcue them from that oblivion to which the majority of their Species is daily haſtening. THE DEMOCRAT, attributed to a reſpectable Gentleman, ſmall as it is, belongs undoubtedly to the excepted few. Its ſcanty Pages, and thin ſmall Volumes, contain more real humour, and juſt Satire, than are found in wading through many Sheets of the ordinary manufacture. It is a pity that the Writer abridged our Amuſement by becoming ſo ſoon weary of his own."

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